

EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2000

**CALIFORNIA SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES CALLS FOR OVERHAUL
OF MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR MARINE RESOURCES**

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**CONTACT: Stanley Young (916) 653-5792
Brian Baird (916) 657-0198**

Sacramento - A groundbreaking new report issued by the Resources Agency today offers a new, simpler and more efficient approach to protecting, preserving and managing California's magnificent coastal resources. Entitled, *Improving California's System of Marine Managed Areas (MMAs)*, the new report provides the first-ever comprehensive analysis of protective classifications that were developed over the last 50 years for State ocean waters. "This report marks a major step forward in protecting our coast," said Secretary of Resources Mary Nichols. "The reforms in this report will benefit everyone who uses and values our coastal resources, from surfers and beachgoers to scientists, fishermen and State management personnel."

The report was prompted by the sheer complexity and inefficiency of the present array of classifications. Designed to address the management of the State's living marine, cultural, and recreational resources, the existing array of MMAs -- 18 separate and overlapping classifications of preserves, refuges, reserves, sanctuaries and others -- is hard to understand, implement and enforce. And with good reason. Cobbled together over half a century and through eight separate state administrations the existing system developed piecemeal as an uncoordinated complex of legislation, regulations, voter initiative processes, and guidelines.

"The current system is a regulatory crazy-quilt," noted Secretary Nichols. In place of the existing arrangement of 18 classifications, the new report presents a stripped-down and

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far simpler system of only 6 different kinds of marine managed areas. "The new report," said Secretary Nichols, "wipes the slate clean by presenting a rational, effective and science-based system of classifications that is simple to understand, implement and enforce."

The report is the culmination of a year-and-a-half-long process that began when the California Resources Agency directed a task force of State management agencies to identify every law, regulation, and policy relating to these management areas off the coast. The draft report, which also included suggestions for improving the present system, was the subject of five well-attended public workshops held in coastal locations from Newport Beach to Trinidad, as well as a special session convened at the State Capitol. Support for the draft report and its conclusions has been widespread. "We believe we now have consensus to overhaul our approach to this critical aspect of ocean management and protection," said Secretary Nichols. "The spectacular marine resources off the California coast are just too important to try to make do with the status quo."

The State's marine resources are not only valued by Californians. Just last week President Clinton used the Antiquities Act to designate all rocks, islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles under the ownership of the Bureau of Land Management as the new California Coastal National Monument. "This National Monument designation is timely, because we plan to work with BLM, other government agencies, the private sector, and the public on ways to better coordinate our management and protection of these resources. I believe that the actions in this report will go a long way to ensuring an effective and powerful partnership between all parties interested achieving this goal."

Please see the attached list of existing and proposed classifications for State MMAs.

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Current Array of Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) Eighteen Classifications

There are currently 18 classifications and sub-classifications of MMAs that can be applied to the marine or estuarine environment along the California coast. Only 16 of these classifications have actually been used; the two classifications not used to date are italicized in the list below. In some cases there are two or more state classifications that overlay one another in a particular region to achieve multiple purposes, and often there is also an overlay of a federal designation. These state classifications and sub-classifications, in alphabetical order:

1. Areas of Special Biological Significance
2. Clam Refuges (Clam Preserves)
3. *Cultural Preserves (a subunit of the State Park System)*
4. Ecological Reserves
5. Historical Units
6. Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserves
7. Natural Preserves (a subunit of the State Park System)
8. Refuges
9. Reserves
10. State Coastal Sanctuary
11. State Estuaries
12. State Parks
13. State Recreation Units - State Beaches
14. State Recreation Units - State Recreation Areas
15. *State Recreation Units - Underwater Recreation Areas*
16. State Reserves
17. State Seashores
18. State Wildlife Areas

Proposed System for Marine Managed Areas Six Classifications

The State Interagency Marine Managed Areas Workgroup has proposed a new system for state MMAs, composed of the following:

1. Marine (Estuarine) Reserve
2. Marine (Estuarine) Park
3. Marine (Estuarine) Conservation Area
4. Marine (Estuarine) Cultural Preservation Area
5. Marine (Estuarine) Recreational Management Area
6. Water Quality Protection Area

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